From: Simmons, Denise
To: Jennifer Winn Aronson
Subject: Re: Monday"s Hearing
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 7:13:47 PM

Dear Ms. Aronson,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm. I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet even have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to discuss this amongst ourselves unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Jennifer Winn Aronson <jwaronson@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 10:39 PM
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Monday's Hearing

Dear Councilor Simmons,

I am writing as a Cambridge resident in response to the controversial legislation proposed for discussion

during next Monday's City Council hearing.

As we are all concerned about many countries' policies towards ethnic minorities (including our own) my family and I strongly feel that to signal out any one particular country by name and omit others is clearly and obviously racist towards that country and the ethnicity of people who identify with that country. Please stand with me, my household, my family, and those who identify with our ethnic and religious background to make sure that any statement put forth lists all countries with allegedly disdainful policies or none at all by name.

Please help us in eradicating racism on the Cambridge City Council, and join me and many others as we push to unseat any Council member who votes for this clearly anti-semitic policy. We all have strong views about what's going on in the world, but there is no place for anyone holding racist beliefs on our city council or at any level of our government.

Condemn all countries allegedly acting immorally and all companies in Cambridge who do business with them all, or condemn none. Signal out one alone and you are racist. I for one am happy to have this legislation before the city council. It will allow us to see who the racists in our local government are so we can weed them out.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Aronson
68 Fayerweather Street
Cambridge, MA 02138